- An order has been issued *vide* notification dated 22.08.2009 imposing stockholding limit on large consumers of sugar who are using or consuming more than ten quintals of sugar per month as a raw material for production or consumption or use, stipulating that such bulk consumers shall not hold sugar stock exceeding fifteen days of their requirement. The notification has come into effect from 19.9.2009.

- Futures trade in sugar in domestic exchanges has been suspended ***w.e.f.*** 27.5.2009 till the end of 2009.

Integrated approach for food and nutrition security

959. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of foodgrains in the last few months have increased manifold in the country and millions of families living in rural areas are unable to afford the same;

(b) if so, whether severe food and nutritional scarcity in the country have affected almost half the children under three years of age and more than one-third of women;

(c) if so, whether any integrated approach has been formulated to achieve food and nutritional security in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) There has been an increase in prices of foodgrain items such as cereals, pulses and sugar. The Government has taken steps to protect poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, coarse grains and kerosene are allocated to State Governments/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 296.52 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 316.39 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 348.45 lakh tonnes in 2008-09. During the period 2009-10 (up to August, 2009), 183.07 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS.

The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.

(b) As per National Family Health Survey report (2005-06) that the proportion of children under three years of age who are underweight decreased from 43 per cent in NFHS-2 to 40 per cent in NFHS-3 and the proportion of ever-married women who are thin has decreased to 33 per cent in NFHS-3 from 36 per cent in NFHS-2.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development indirectly contributes to the masses through complementary approach towards the food and nutrition component through its various programmes and schemes like:—

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is the world's largest programme addressing children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers where ICDS provides the following six services:

- Supplementary Nutrition,
- Immunization,
- Health Check ups,
- Referral services,
- Pre-school non-formal Education,
- Nutrition and Health Education.

As on 31.3.2009 approximately 10.70 lakhs AWCs are operational for the benefit of 8.63 crore children below six years and pregnant/lactating mothers who are given supplementary nutrition and other facilities under ICDS. The target is to operationalise 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) all over the country.

(ii) Nutrition advocacy and awareness generation programmes of Food and Nutrition Board under the aegis of the Ministry:—

- Nutrition Education and Training for both the masses and ICDS functionaries,
- Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition,
- Providing Fruits and Vegetable Processing facilities,
- Mass Media Communication on nutrition awareness,
- Food Analysis and Standardization,

(iii) The two programmes *viz.* Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojana seek to address the problem of inter-generation cycle of malnutrition by taking care of the malnutrition among adolescent girls.

Procurement of paddy

†960. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.